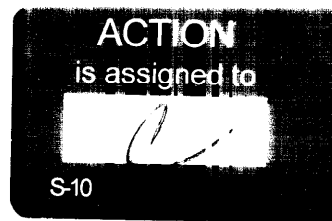


# Chesapeake Travel



CS 17-98-777-0

Get Going!

47621

November 23, 1998

OST-98-4775-21

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
DOCKET SECTION  
98 DEC -4 AM 11:18

The Honorable Rodney Slater  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Slater:

I am writing this letter as a concerned owner of a travel agency. It appears to me that the recent decision of major U.S. airlines to cap commissions at \$100.00 per ticket on international airfares is just one more step in their all-out assault to drive the travel agent from the marketplace. By forcing us from the marketplace, the airlines are assuring that the public will have no choice but to deal directly with the airlines through 800 numbers and the Internet. Ultimately this will result in the consumer paying more money for their airline tickets. This fact, illustrated recently in the "20/20" television program, clearly showed when you removed the travel agents from the scene; the airlines can overcharge the consumer at will.

I am deeply concerned about what the airlines are doing to force the consumer to deal directly with them. It has become more apparent everyday that they (the airlines) do not want the traveling public to enjoy access to a source of unbiased information on airfares. Today, travel agents are the only source that provides the travel consumer with complete and unbiased comparative fare and schedule information.

The airlines' latest commission cap simply fuels the fires of concern about the lack of airline competition in today's marketplace with their fortress hub system and control over the airline reservation systems. If you agree with my concerns, then please take the necessary actions to prevent the monopolistic practices of airlines from further harming the travel consumer.

Sincerely,

*Shari L. McCord*  
Shari L. McCord